



KNITS — VERSATILE AND STYLISH

Fannie Brown Eaton*

Knits move front and center on the fashion stage. They are made in all kinds of fibers, a variety of textures and highly styled colors and fashions. They are uninhibited. They go anywhere at anytime. Consumers like the free, easy, untraditional look of the knit garment. Its simplicity and ease of grace seem to match the mood of the time. The soft, pliant, stretchable fabric is wrinkle resistant and has built-in ease of care. On-the-go people like its packability.

Some of the most popular types for outerwear are tricot, rachel, jersey and double knits.

TRICOT WARP KNIT

This fabric has fine vertical wales on one side and crosswise ribs on the back. Acetate and nylon are the major fibers used in tricot knit.

Acetate tricot knit is used mainly in bonding. Bonded knits vary in weights from a lacy light one, to a smooth-packed single knit, to a soft bulky knit. The backing gives stability and firmness for easier workability. Tailored sportswear for all the family, men's shirts and women's dresses are made of these knits. The outer fabric may be of wool, acetate, acrylic polyester or rayon.

Look for *certification of performance* by the industry on the label. This is the consumer's guarantee that the fabric will give wear satisfaction.

A tag on each garment containing Coin-bonded fabric guarantees against separation of face and back fabric in normal use for the life expectancy of the garment if the tag's care instruction are followed. The consumer should report any failures by following a procedure on the tag.

Collins and Aikman, Certifab Pluss, *guarantee colorfastness* of the acetate fabric. It now can be bonded to a washable face fabric. Acetate may glaze or melt at a low temperature in ironing.

Tricot knit of acetate-nylon in a firm, light weight smooth texture is used in men's jackets and

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COIN®

DRY CLEANABLE
AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF DRY CLEANING
BONDED FABRICS MEET THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR DRY CLEANING
STANDARD L 22 U.S.A. STANDARDS
INSTITUTE

slacks. Its wrinkle resistance and quick recovery gives a neat appearance during wear.

Acetate plus nylon, a bi-constituent fiber, in an untextured yarn makes a light weight, fine, smooth drapable fabric for tailored dresses, costume tops or separates. Textured acetate plus nylon gives a soft, bulky fine texture and can be dyed to different colors in a single bath. It is suitable for sportswear and shirting.

RACHEL WARP KNIT

This knit comes in a variety of lacy, open fabrics and dense fabrics with surface interest. The lacy fabric may have a very fine, delicate crocheted look or a heavier cable-knit appearance. These fabrics may be bonded to acetate tricot for use in suits and coats. Unbonded lacy knits should be firm with good stretch and recovery. They are used in women's dresses and sportswear and men's shirts.

All types of fibers — cotton, wool, rayon, acrylic, polyester, acetate and nylon — are used in rachel knits.

Rachel apparel fabric may have a yarn layered in and stitch-bonded to a firmly woven back. The looseness of this layered yarn may pull or snag easily if given hard wear. Women's coats and better dresses are made from this fabric. A large, soft nubby yarn knitted into a nylon backing and heat set for dimensional stability gives another interesting surface texture. It is used in better dresses and costume tunics. It should not be chosen for hard wear.

This garment is made of:

100% DACRON® POLYESTER FIBRE

- WASHABLE
- RETAINS SHAPE
- MOTH PROOF
- PACK AND TRAVEL WISE
- ALWAYS FOLD AND STORE
NEVER HANG GARMENT



Kimberly®

You can test knits by gently pulling in each direction and releasing to check the amount of stretch and recovery. How well does it spring back or recover its original shape? Good quality knit has a firm but resilient body.

JERSEY KNIT

This knit is a basic structure in all knitting. Loops are formed in only one direction giving the two sides of the fabric a different appearance. It is a single-weft knit fabric.

Jersey knit apparel may be fully shaped without seams. It resembles hand knitted garments. Full-fashioned sweaters, shirts, dresses and suits are more expensive than the cut and sewn knits. All types of fibers may be used — nylon, acrylics, wool, cotton, cashmere and fur blends.

The Ban-Lon type of pullover sweater is a high-volume, full-fashioned jersey knit item. Ban-Lon is a *trademark for a yarn* that has been given a texturizing treatment that crimps the individual filament in the yarn to increase the bulk and/or elasticity. Nylon fiber is most often used in this kind of yarn. Wintuk is a *trademark name for an Orlon acrylic fiber* especially made for knitting.

Improper care may ruin knit garments. Consumers should read label information. Care instructions may be on hang tags or labels sewn in the garment. Hand washing, blocking and laying garment flat to dry may be required for full-fashioned garments. They may have to be folded for storage. Keep the hang tag for reference as to care of garments.

Plain jersey knit fabrics are available in a variety of weights and surface interest such as velours, piles and all types of stripes. Women's blouses, dresses, sweaters and men's sport and dress shirts are made of this fabric. All fibers can be used in a jersey knit. The fabric tends to curl so that seam finishes are important. Machine overcast is most often used. Bonding helps to give stability to jersey. Look for round, firm loops in the knit. Avoid fabric with thin spots which are caused by an uneven yarn.

Some knits carry a *wear-dated tag which guarantees* them for a year's normal wear. If a garment does not hold up, it can be returned with tag and sales slip or refund or replacement.



This garment is made of ZEFAN® II ACRYLIC and is guaranteed by DOW BADISCHE CO. for a full year's wear.

100% ZEFAN® II ACRYLIC

DOUBLEKNIT

This is the fabric that comes closer to a woven fabric. It holds its shape well and does not curl. It also offers versatility of yarn use. Many designs are available such as faille, jacquard, tweeds, herringbone, checks, plaids and argyles. The ability of the machine to make a tuck pattern offers surface interest that is compact, yet pliable. A light-weight compact knit resembling men's suiting is being used in tailored dresses, coats and men's suits. Major production of this fabric is used in women's dresses.

Textured polyester doubleknit fabric is used in the greatest volume. *Polyester* is the generic or family name for a fiber that can be washed, dried and worn. It adapts well to machine washing and drying. Textured means the fiber has been crimped to give a soft, spongy feel, yet has body and stability. The fiber can be heat set into permanent pleats and creases. It is strong and durable. Pilling and snagging are problems with some fabrics.

Trademark names for polyester are Alvin, Blue "C," Dacron, Encron, Fortrel, Kodel, Vycron and others. The fiber manufacture name and country of origin is required by law to be on the label.

Wool and blends of polyester/wool doubleknit fabrics are used in dresses, suits, coats and jackets. The fabric is warm, soft and resilient. It holds creases and shapes well. Machine-washable wools are available. Read the care label and be sure to follow the directions. A new guarantee of washability comes from the American Institute of Laundering. The symbol, as shown, appears on hang tags. The fiber used in the fabric dictates how it is to be laundered.



"DuPont Zepel" is a trademark for a finish applied to fabrics to repel rain and stain. Hang tags may give information about special finishes that is helpful to consumers. Doubleknit fabrics of polyester/wool blend and doubleknit bonded to acetate tricot and protected by "Zepel" are used in raincoats, dresses, pants and casual jackets. Soil and stain repellents may be used on different knit fabrics.



When you see this symbol, you know cotton, a natural fiber, has been used to make the doubleknit. They are washable, comfortable and care-free and for all family members. They take longer to dry after washing and are easily stained by water-born stains.

Acrylic and acrylic/nylon blend doubleknit fabrics have a soft, resilient wool-like hand. They are light weight, washable and have the ability to hold pleats and creases after washing. Tops, pants, shifts and dresses are made of this fabric.

Acetate doubleknits have a soft luster, excellent drapability and a nice hand. Dry clean, with touch-up ironing between cleanings is required. Ironing on the reverse side is recommended. Use light pressure and low setting on iron.

Celanese's Arnel triacetate Plus Nylon is the only blended filament made by twisting, interlacing or otherwise making a coherent bundle of dissimilar filaments. Arnel Plus Nylon combines the aesthetics and ease of care properties of triacetate with the strength of nylon. Beautiful colors are provided by the fact that the two fibers can be dyed different colors in a single bath. This yarn is used in other types of knits too.

When new fabric construction, fiber innovation or finish comes along, consumers may choose to use it and see what happens, or wait for others to try it first. Individual and family use and care provide the final test and evaluation of a clothing product.

Keep hang tags and sales slips. If a consumer feels that all specific instructions for proper care and handling have been followed but the product has not performed as promised, that is the time to do something about it. Return the merchandise with the hang tag to the retailer, and explain how the merchandise has failed. If a salesperson is unable to help you, write to the customer service department. If satisfaction is not provided by the retailer, then a letter to the manufacturer or fiber producer is in order.



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